

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Guevara, Lindquist, Reisbig, Rinkevich, Shea, Woodman, Wysocki, Zoubek

Absent: Anaya, LaCost, Purdum, Ruchala, Schubert

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Location: 201 Administration

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call to Order

Lindquist called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman and SVCAA Weissinger

2.1 Update on Search for Dean of Architecture

SVCAA Weissinger reported that the search committee is doing very good work and will be conducting airport interviews very soon. She noted that she is excited about the pool of candidates and she hopes to have a short list of candidates from the search committee in the next couple of weeks. She reported that on campus interviews may take place during the last week of March or the first week of April.

2.2 Current Enrollment Trends

Chancellor Perlman stated that right now we have some slippage in enrollment from last year although more nonresident students have made deposits than last year. He pointed out that the decline is in students from Lincoln and Omaha. He noted that the figures are based on deposits, but this is a changing measure although he believes that there will not be a significant increase in new students. He stated that realistically we are not ready yet to have a large increase in enrollment. He stated that the Enrollment Management Plan going forward makes sense and there are some good negotiations going forward in international areas for increasing undergraduate and graduate student enrollments.

SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that we were down fifty students this year from the previous fall semester and we will probably be about the same this year. She stated that Admissions is working with all of the colleges to create a far reaching infrastructure that will pay off as we increase enrollment. She reported that our first goal is to work very hard in each county in Nebraska to enroll as many Nebraska students at UNL as we can. She noted that there are a lot of schools, both within the state and out of the state, that are recruiting against us. She noted that even if we are successful in keeping the majority of Nebraska students at UNL, we still have the capacity and elasticity to recruit a large number of out of state students. She pointed out that there would be terrific payout for us if we can do this and she thinks Nebraskans welcome the idea of having out of state students.

Shea noted that we have a particularly strong extension educator network that can be extremely helpful in recruiting Nebraska students. Zoubek reported that he recently attended an event and asked the students in attendance if they are planning on going to college. He said that 100% of the students spoken to said they are planning to go to college. He noted this is a first and pointed out that there are many different schools that these students can attend. He reported that he and the other extension educators are willing to work with any of the colleges to help with recruiting. SVCAA Weissinger pointed out that we need to do everything we can to say that we are building a better university for Nebraska so students will come here. She noted that some out of state students who come to UNL remain in the state after graduation. Zoubek reported that he knows of a scholarship that in the past only had a very limited number of applicants, but this year 15 students have applied for it. Most of these students have indicated interest in science, biology, and agriculture. He pointed out that Nebraska Innovation Campus will help in recruiting students. Shea stated that some people may think that extension educators only help to recruit students interested in agriculture but this is not the case.

Woodman asked if students from Lincoln and Omaha are going to other schools. SVCAA Weissinger noted that the UNO market is very complicated. Chancellor Perlman pointed out that UNO now has a much more aggressive recruiting effort. SVCAA Weissinger stated that UNO recently hired a talented recruitment staff.

2.3 Enrollment Council Management Plan

SVCAA Weissinger reported that a draft plan has been developed and sent to the deans. She noted that department chairs, associate deans, and deans recently attended a gathering to get started on graduate student recruitment and to hear how we are going to meet the enrollment goal. She stated that Associate VC Goodburn and Dean Cervený are interested in meeting with departments and colleges to talk about their specific enrollment plans and she thinks they would be willing to speak to the Senate. She noted that a number of committees provided input on the plan and the Senate had representatives on some of these committees. She stated that the purpose of discussions on the plan is to understand at the unit level the opportunities and real challenges that will need to be mitigated in order to meet our enrollment goal.

Shea asked if there will be a document of the plan. SVCAA Weissinger reported that it is now on the web at http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/documents/Campus_Blueprint-March_2012.pdf.

2.4 Procedures for Splitting a Department

Lindquist stated that it was reported to the Executive Committee that a department is uncertain whether it will be split. He noted that this has implications beyond the department in regards to representation on various committees within the college and in the Faculty Senate. Shea pointed out that the Executive Committee is concerned whether the proper procedures are being followed to do this. Chancellor Perlman stated that he reread the Bylaws yesterday and he has the responsibility of organizing the colleges and the departments. He pointed out that a proposal has to be made to split a department and faculty members of the department should have a strong role in this decision. The next

step would be for the proposal to go to the Academic Planning Committee and then to him for approval.

2.5 Summer Sessions Management

SVCAA Weissinger noted that the office of Summer Sessions was dissolved last summer and at that time she asked the deans what kind of process they want to use to propose solutions for dealing with summer courses. She stated that the associate deans have been appointed to a council to examine the issues for each of the colleges and then to work together to create a menu of good ideas that they can bring back to the deans for consideration. She reported that she told the deans that there were no limitations to their ideas and that they could rethink summer sessions in how courses could be offered and the length of the term. She stated that the idea is to craft the summer program specifically to the colleges and then begin exploring mutually beneficial solutions that could, in effect, look like a trimester. She noted that this would depend on whether the faculty would be willing to divide up the academic year to accommodate this kind of calendar. She stated that she has seen a draft of the report of the council and she believes it will be finalized and given to the deans soon. She pointed out that we need an immediate solution, but there is a list of things that will take longer to explore. She noted that the current summer session terms include a three week, two five week, and an eight week session. She reported that the council has looked at ways to divide the summer. One idea is to have a thirteen week semester but the impacts of this on faculty and students need to be carefully considered.

Woodman asked if the summer sessions would continue to function as a self supporting program. SVCAA Weissinger stated discussions on this issue are just beginning.

SVCAA Weissinger stated that the campus does not really have a sense of what the students want for summer session courses and discussions need to take place to see what does and doesn't attract them to summer classes.

2.6 SVCAA's Goal to Meet with Faculty of Each College

SVCAA Weissinger reported that she was unable to meet with the faculty of each college as she originally had hoped due to the demands of her position. She noted that she has been using the academic program reviews to learn more about the individual academic units.

2.7 Online Testing System Problems

Woodman noted that the Maple TA online testing system is currently in a state of flux concerning who the current owners of the system are and providing technical support. He pointed out that the system is reaching its maximum capacity and needs to be replaced. This is causing some anxiety for those faculty members that use the system.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that Associate VC Perez has been working with the Faculty Senate's Information Technologies and Services Committee about Maple TA as well as an Information Services committee that oversees technology fees to address the problems. She noted that Associate VC Perez is also looking at what funding

mechanisms can be used to support the system. She noted that the need for testing centers for online and campus courses will more than likely increase and we want to be able to find a solution in terms of the platforms and applications we use, how the testing centers will be staffed and where they will exist. She pointed out that she is not aware of any plans to pull the funding on Maple TA.

2.8 Upcoming Issues

SVCAA Weissinger reported that she has decided to restructure the Graduate Studies Office. She stated that this was being done to free up some permanent funds that can be invested in a couple of colleges that have deficits. She pointed out that these deficits are not the fault of the sitting deans and it will take a variety of solutions to solve these deficits. She stated that she hopes people will see her making efforts to reduce administration's FTE and as a result, Professor Dussault will be returning to Chemistry. She noted that he graciously stepped in to help out this past year when she vacated the position, but he is happy to be returning to his research. As a result, the Dean of Graduate Studies position will become a part time position and she has asked for a search waiver so she can combine this position with a sitting Associate Vice Chancellor in Academic Affairs. She pointed out that this will free up a full budget line from the Graduate Dean and there is an Associate Dean position in International Affairs that will not be refilled.

SVCAA Weissinger reported that Dean Cerveny and Director Barber, Extended Education and Outreach (EE&O), have engaged in a major restructuring of EE&O resulting in a significant reduction in the work force of this office. She stated that while this is sad and disruptive they are convinced that with a significant reduction they can focus on faculty and students more and have a greater impact. She noted that the salary savings will provide a major source of funding for the expanding recruiting efforts in Admissions. She stated that this is a revenue neutral solution that will move funding from EE&O to Admissions and she believes this can be accomplished without disruption to the faculty and students. She pointed out that making these restructuring changes avoids having to take money away from the colleges.

Woodman asked if personnel involved with helping faculty to develop courses for extended education have been let go. SVCAA Weissinger stated that these people were untouched by the restructuring, but the idea is to have them help more with blending technology use on campus. She noted that if they are successful with doing this she can envision the faculty advocating for additional investment in this area.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the Healthy Nebraska Initiative that includes the proposed vet diagnostic labs seems to be moving through the Legislature. He noted that at some point the Governor's budget will be discussed by the Legislature and this could have an impact on the Initiative but there appears to be strong support for the labs. He pointed out that the Lincoln nursing facility did not secure support when the initiative was considered by the Legislature.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the American Culture Center in China will open formally on April 21 and a number of people from UNL will be participating in the opening. He pointed out that the Center will be managed by us and NU is prominent throughout the Center's building. He suggested that faculty members should think about their role and potential engagement with the Center.

Chancellor Perlman stated that the administration is still exploring ideas about the International Affairs Office. He pointed out that IANR is currently searching for a Director of Global Engagement and he understands there are some great candidates for this position. He wants to wait until this person is in place before finalizing plans for International Affairs to make sure we get someone with the skill set we need and without duplicating our efforts. He pointed out that we are still struggling to find a place where we can make international programs more visible and with easy access for international students.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he just had a tour of the arena and noted that a number of our students have interns with the project. He reported that the most modern technology is being used and all of the blueprints from the ground up are generated on a computer. He stated that he believes the arena is on schedule and within budget. He stated that the basketball team will play at the arena and commencement will more than likely be held there.

Chancellor Perlman reported that the campus master plan is moving forward but a steering committee will need to be formed. He stated that the Academic Planning Committee and other faculty members will be involved with the planning but the majority of the work will not take place until the fall.

3.0 Announcements

Griffin announced that there will not be an Executive Committee meeting during the week of spring break.

4.0 Approval of 3/7/12 Minutes

The Executive Committee approved the minutes as revised.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Survey of Non-Tenure Track Faculty Members

The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the survey and suggested revisions. Wysocki stated that there is concern among tenured faculty members in his department with allowing non-tenure track faculty members voting rights in department meetings. There is concern that many of them will feel compelled to vote as a chair does for fear if they vote against a chair their contract will not be renewed. Shea stated that voting should be done by secret ballot if people think this is a concern. Guevara pointed out that for some departments voting rights are a concern because the non-tenure track faculty members outnumber tenure track faculty members. Wysocki noted that in some departments just a few votes can change the outcome of decisions. He stated that the faculty members in his department felt that people on annual contracts should not be

allowed to vote on certain matters. Guevara pointed out that the departments decide who can have voting rights.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Upcoming Senate Election for New Officers

Griffin reminded the Executive Committee that elections for President Elect, Secretary, and an Executive Committee will take place on April 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 28 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Pat Shea, Secretary.